



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XIX
No. 34

SEPT. 15, 1997

CAMPAIGN '98: IS CALIF. SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD GEORGE IN TROUBLE FOR 1998?

Editor's note: CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George and three other State high court jurists face reconfirmation next year. But as **Calpeek** readers may recall, George wrote the majority 4-3 decision striking down *Calif.'s parental consent law* on teenage abortions. What impact has this had on his prospects for reconfirmation? Here's our update & analysis...

...According to a newly released Field Poll (conducted Aug. 14-24 among 753 registered voters), 52% of those surveyed are undecided on whether they'd vote to reconfirm George. 29% would vote to confirm, while 19% would not. When asked a *push* question -- *how would you vote if you knew that Chief Justice George wrote the majority opinion overturning the parental consent law* -- the results were much closer: 41% more inclined to support George vs. 40% less inclined; with 17% saying it made no difference and 2% voicing no opinion...

...Parental consent has wide bi-partisan appeal, after all, abortion isn't like getting your ears pierced --- which by the way, requires parental consent for minors. How do Calif. voters feel about parental consent? In 1992, a Field survey found 64% in favor vs. 34% opposed to a law requiring teenagers under 18 to inform parents before getting an abortion. And parental consent is one area where many elected Demos part with CARAL (Calif. Abortion & Reproductive Rights Action League) and its national counterpart, NARAL. For those with short memories, former State Sen. Art Torres(D), now CDP Chair, was one of those Demos who favored parental consent...

...As reported last week, there is a new initiative at the AG's office (awaiting title & summary), *the Calif. Parental Rights & Child Protection Initiative*, which

would overturn the court's recent decision. If it qualifies, which seems likely, this initiative would be on the November '98 ballot, the same time that George would be on the ballot. The initiative campaign, combined with a strong effort by the Calif. ProLife Council against George, could put the Chief Justice in harms way. In other words, George should think in terms of hiring some professional campaign management...

...FYI: Already gearing up to fight for Chief Justice George and Justice Ming Chin (another target of the ProLife Council because he voted w/George) is CARAL & NARAL. But CARAL has had some internal problems. The Southern Calif. office is no longer open. Sources say the funding dried up. So CARAL's only office is in S.F. under the new leadership of executive director Danielle Tinman. To fill the So. Calif. void, DC-based NARAL has opened its 1st regional office in Culver City under exec. director Lisa Presta ☎(310)559-9334. Stay tuned...

PART 20: ARENA BACKERS SAY A VOTE WILL KILL THE PROJECT. SHOULD THERE BE A PUBLIC VOTE?

Editor's note: The *war of words* between supporters of the proposed \$240 million downtown L.A. sports arena project and its leading opponent, L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs, continues to provide summertime entertainment for political junkies. Here's Part XX in our continuing series of reports on *public funding of sports facilities*...

...Here's the chronology of how the war of words began to escalate. On Sept. 5th, Miguel Contreras, head of the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor, led off the attack on Wachs by stating, "We'll body-check Joel Wachs." Then on Sept. 8th a Daily News editorial said Wachs' action with his initiative bordered on political terrorism. The next day (Sept. 9th) Cardinal Roger M. Mahony waded into the battle by publicly endorsing the

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proposed arena, denouncing the initiative and bashing Wachs. So this battle between the councilman and the arena supporters has definitely reached the point to where it's doubtful now that Wachs will back down. After yet another rewrite to tighten loose ends, the proposed measure is almost ready for circulation...

...But all these words of war don't really address the main issue: should there be a vote if public funds are used to build sports facilities? In the Sept. 4th Daily News, strategic communications consultant Joe Scott noted that an initiative allowing a vote on a major L.A. project isn't a new idea. In fact, Scott, who is a big L.A. history buff, wrote that in 1926 there was a huge battle over the future direction of transportation in L.A. Prop. 9 gave L.A. the Union Station in downtown. Then there was the Prop. B in 1958. That was the battle over the L.A. Dodgers and Chavez Ravine. In addition, there was a major battle in 1988 (Measures O & P) over oil drilling off the Pacific Palisades coast, with Occidental Petroleum vs. the environmentalists. So from time to time there have been initiatives on key land use issues here in L.A....

...But the arena developers say if Wachs' initiative qualifies, then they'll drop the sports arena plan. We'll have to wait and see, because Ed Roski & Philip Anschutz and their team of consultants and attorneys, have played this game of *chicken* before and they have backed down or given in each time. As for the public, sources in various council offices report that most of the letters and calls on this subject tend to back Wachs --- which doesn't shock pro-arena supporters...

...FYI: Last week **Calpeek** briefly mentioned the old Sports Arena next to the L.A. Coliseum. It's where the NBA Clippers currently play. What's its future? One source thinks there's a plan to tear it down and use the space for parking, should the NFL ever agree to use the Coliseum again as a site for pro football. Others think the old sports arena will be modernized, but downsized. In 1960, this sports arena was the site of DNC Convention where John F. Kennedy was nominated for president. Stay tuned...

COMMUNICATING WITH CALPEEK VIA E-MAIL.

For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: calpeek@aol.com. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

CAMPAIGN '98: ODDS & ENDS FROM AROUND CALIF.

Editor's note: Here are some recent campaign developments at the Statewide level...

☒ **Governor's Race** - Sources expect Demo business exec Al Checchi to make a formal announcement very shortly that his exploratory effort is over and that he's running for governor. Checchi has already said he'll announce a decision before the end of September. Don't look for any massive multi-city tour, but perhaps just a statement tied to a speaking engagement, along with news release, spin and more spin...

...In the meantime, Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) keeps plugging along, rounding up more law & order endorsements - the latest from the CA Organization of Police and Sheriffs(COPS). On Sept. 16th, Davis will give a major policy speech to Town Hall at 12 noon, Biltmore Hotel, L.A. In addition, Davis is almost finished rounding out his '98 campaign team, which includes Garry South as daily cmp. mgr.; Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Assoc. on polling; Doak, Carrier & Assoc. as tv/media consultants; & Ace Smith on op research. Steve Smith, former CDP operative, now with the LG's operation, will leave state payroll in October to become deputy campaign director. The Davis HQ is at 9911 W. Pico Blvd., Ste. 980, L.A. 90035. ☎(310)201-0344...

...FYI: With Davis hiring David Doak & Michelle Carrier and Checchi hiring Bob Shrum, it sets up a great battle between **ex partners**...

☒ **U.S. Senate Contest** - Highly regarded GOP pollster Gary Lawrence of Orange Co. has resigned from Darrell Issa's U.S. Senate campaign after Issa decided to bring in The Wirthlin Group. Lawrence was asked to stay to do focus groups, but he said no thanks. Issa started his L.A. radio buy Sept. 9th...

...Conservative GOP political consultant Wayne Johnson has joined Matt Fong's U.S. Senate campaign. Johnson brings some real conservative credibility to Fong's campaign...

☒ **Insurance Commissioner** - A little more info about Marin Co. Sup. Hal Brown, a Demo who is testing the waters for a possible run against incumbent GOP Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush. According to a *fact sheet* from Brown, he raised about \$1.2

million over the years for both Kathleen & Jerry, his first cousins. Brown has been on the Marin Co. Bd. of Supes for 14 years and is known as a fiscal conservative. He's also pro-death penalty. He was reelected in 1996 with 80% of the vote. He was the author of the county's family medical leave law. How did Hal Brown get his start? Cousin Jerry appointed him to fill out the term of Barbara Boxer, who jumped from the Board to the U.S. House in 1983. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL BILL WINS APPROVAL; GOES TO GOV. WILSON.

Editor's note: Although there are a number of controversial bills we're tracking, legislation dealing with firearms is one of our specialties. As **Calpeek** hit deadline, SB 500 was on its way to Gov. Pete Wilson's desk. Two other gun bills were still up in the air. Here's our update & analysis...

...The Polanco/Caldera bill to ban the manufacture and sale of cheap handguns (*Saturday Night Specials*) won narrow State Senate approval Sept. 9th on a 22-15 vote. Sen. Bruce McPherson of Santa Cruz was the lone GOPer to vote YES, while Sen. Jim Costa of Fresno was the only Demo voting against SB 500. With the bill now going to Gov. Wilson's desk, there is lots of speculation as to what the governor will do. "Politically, Wilson can't afford to sign this bill. If he does, he can kiss good-bye any hope he ever had of running for President as a Republican," one source told **Calpeek**. Our sources believe Wilson will veto SB 500 because of some technical flaws in the bill. For example, SB 500 mistakenly cuts penalties for illegal gun trafficking and messes up those popular police gun buy-back programs. SB 500 won't take effect until 1999, so there is time to enact clean-up legislation...

...As for AB 23, the rewrite of Calif.'s Roberti-Roos Law banning certain types of *assault weapons*, our sources think that at worst this legislation becomes a 2-year bill. It won Senate approval on a 22-13 vote, but what happens when AB 23 returns to the Assembly for concurrence is unknown. It will be very close...

...The only major gun bill which is likely to reach Gov. Wilson's desk --- and be signed --- is AB 991 by SF's Kevin Shelley(D). This bill requires new CA residents to register their handguns the same way gun-buying CA

residents do. Shelley and Sen. Steve Peace(D-Chula Vista) worked this bill in the Senate and it won approval on a 25-12 vote - the most votes of any controversial gun bill. It's expected to win concurrence in the State Assembly. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: ANOTHER LOOK AT SHERIFF RACES

Editor's note: Here's our third update on races for County Sheriff in 1998, where 57 of Calif.'s 58 counties will hold elections...

...In our last count **Calpeek** noted that 3 county sheriffs would not seek reelection in 1998. These sheriffs are: Don McDonald of El Dorado, who has already retired; Glen Craig of Sacramento; and Larry Carpenter of Ventura...

...Now **Calpeek** has learned that the *Dean* of the County Sheriffs - Oren R. Fox of Imperial Co. - will step down and not seek reelection in 1998. Fox was first elected in 1973. Assuming Orange Co. Sheriff Brad Gates runs for another term and wins, he would be the new Dean of the County Sheriffs. However, Gates faces a serious challenge in 1998...

...**New Developments:** Those County Sheriffs who have recently announced they are seeking new terms in 1998 include Carl Sparks of Kern Co.; Richard Hulse of Solano Co.; Warren Rupf of Contra Costa Co.; and Les Weidman of Stanislaus Co...

...**Other news:** Some noise coming out of Santa Clara Co. where incumbent Sheriff Chuck Gillingham could face a challenge from San Jose Police Chief Lou Cobarruviaz. No word yet on what Gillingham's plans are for '98, but there has been speculation he might step down. In L.A. Co., Sheriff Sherman Block has been endorsed for reelection by all 5 county supes...

...As for Gates and Orange Co., the incumbent had to fire one of his top commanders, Asst. Sheriff Dennis LaDucer, who has been named in several sexual harassment lawsuits, filed in June and July of this year by 3 different female employees of the sheriff's department. It's not a very good situation for Gates, but at least he acted quickly in firing LaDucer, who has been with the department for 30 years. Nevertheless, if Gates seeks reelection, bet your first born that these sexual harassment suits will become campaign issues. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Sept. 17-19	Regional Council of Rural Counties(RCRC) conducts its annual conference, Sonora, CA.
Sept. 25-28	DNC meeting, Washington DC:
Sept. 25-27	9th annual Envisioning Calif. Conference at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.
Sept. 26-28	Calif. Republican Party state convention at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel.
Oct. 15	Prop. 208 trial begins in U.S. District Court, Sacramento.
Oct. 23	L.A. Business Council Leadership L.A. Media Seminar, Santa Monica.
Oct. 26	End of daylight savings time.
Nov. 4	Election Day - S.F. City Attorney & Treasurer; + other local elections.
Nov. 16-19	IAPC Annual Conf., Buenos Aires.
Dec. 3-5	Sessions on Tourism & Future of Western Legislatures. Sponsored by Council of State Govts.- West. Kohala Coast, Hawaii.
Dec. 5-9	Council of State Govts. annual meeting, Honolulu.
Dec. 6-8	Nat'l League of Cities meeting, Philadelphia.
Jan. 26-28	Amer. Assn. of Political Consultants Winter Conf., Fairmont Hotel, S.F.

LINCOLN CLUB MEETINGS IN L.A. COUNTY AREA.

Assemblyman Gary Miller(R-Diamond Bar) addresses the Downtown L.A. Chpt. of the Lincoln Club, 12 noon, Sept. 16...Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian (R-Carlsbad) addresses the San Gabriel Valley Chpt., 7:30 a.m., Sept. 19, Industry Hills Sheraton...And political consultant Joe Cerrell addresses the So. Bay Chpt., 12 noon, Sept. 19, Torrance Marriott. For info ☎ Sheila McNichols (626)969-1304...

SEN. KOPP TO SPEAK AT USC'S UNRUH INSTITUTE.

State Sen. Quentin Kopp(I-SF), will speak at 7 p.m., Sept. 18 at USC's Waite Phillips Hall on campus on "Independents in Government." Sen. Kopp's speech is sponsored by USC's Unruh Inst. of Politics. For info ☎ (213)740-8964...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **Best Quote on Diana's Death** - Actually, the quote was on TV coverage of Princess Diana's funeral and it's from *L.A. Times* TV critic Howard Rosenberg, who said: *A spate of locals pursued the Diana story across the sea. Talk about skewed priorities. I mean, you must be kidding. Los Angeles stations that won't*

spend a dime to send someone to Sacramento to cover Calif. government have jetted reporters and camera crews to Paris and London for post-mortems on Diana, princess of Wales? Right on, Howard...

■ **Preliminary Hearing Delayed** - A preliminary hearing for Assemblyman Scott Baugh(R-Huntington Beach) was postponed until Sept. 16th. Baugh has been charged with 5 felony perjury and 13 misdemeanor counts of campaign reporting violations, all stemming from the 1995 recall of Doris Allen. Baugh denies any wrongdoing. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Arthur H. Bronson, 80, died Sept. 5 from complications of Alzheimers. He was an ARCO executive and a 17-year trustee of the L.A. Community College Board. A very decent guy. R.I.P...

● Ken Bell has joined the Sacto-base Bovee Co. as a Sr. VP. In addition, Janene Balantac has been hired as a Sr. Acct. Rep by the firm...

● L.A.-based Diverse Strategies for Organizing has been hired by the L.A. Arena Co. to do its community outreach program for the proposed \$240 million sports arena in downtown L.A...

● New Sacto office for Remcho, Johansen & Purcell: 980 Ninth St., Ste. 2140, Sacto 95814. ☎(916) 264-1818...

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